

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 RSC-01 OES-05

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R 130958Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6791

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 19175

PARIS FOR SCICON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, TGEN, SENV, GW, NL

SUBJECT: HEALTH EFFECTS OF PVC PACKAGING

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REF: A) STATE 263361; B) STATE 263360;

C) PARIS 28860

1. THE ASSOCIATION OF THE GERMAN PLASTICS INDUSTRY, FRANKFURT, HAS ISSUED IN GERMAN A 30-PAGE BOOKLET ENTITLED "VC/PVC: MEASURES FOR HEALTH PROTECTION". COPY OF THE BOOKLET, DATED NOVEMBER 12, 1974, FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SEPARATE COVER. SOURCES AT BOTH FEDERAL MINLAB AND MINHEALTH CONFIRM THAT BOOKLET ACCURATELY SUMMARIZES STATE OF THE ART HERE.

2. RESULTS ON GERMAN RESEARCH ON MIGRATION OF VC FROM PVC PACKAGING ARE RATHER LIMITED TO DATE. UPON INITIATIVE OF THE PLASTICS COMMISSION OF THE FEDERAL HEALTH AGENCY AT BERLIN, CERTAIN LAND (STATE) FOOD INSPECTION INSTITUTES AND THE GERMAN PLASTICS INDUSTRY HAVE MADE ANALYTICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF VARIOUS FOOD PRODUCTS PACKAGED IN VC. IN NO CASE WERE VC LEVELS GREATER THAN ONE PPM FOUND IN FOODS TESTED. THIS RESEARCH IS PRESENTLY BEING CONTINUED ON BROAD SCALE, WITH ADDITIONAL RESULTS BEING EXPECTED IN MARCH 1975.

3. THE BOOKLET MENTIONED PARA 1 ALSO REFERS (P. 10) TO AN ANIMAL FEEDING TEST COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1974 BY THE NETHERLANDS CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR NUTRITION RESEARCH (CIVO-TNO). IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE ORAL TOXICITY OF VC, RATS WERE FED FOR 90 DAYS WITH 0, 30, 100, AND 300 MILLIGRAM VINYL CHLORIDE PER KILOGRAM OF BODY WEIGHT. AT 30 MG. LEVEL, NO EFFECTS WERE NOTED, WHILE 100 AND 300 MILLIGRAM LEVELS WERE DESCRIBED AS "CONCENTRATIONS WITH NO DIRECT TOXIC EFFECT". FURTHER INFORMATION IS EXPECTED FROM A FOLLOW-UP TWO-YEAR FEEDING STUDY. EMBASSY THE HAGUE MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS.

4. BASED ON RESULTS DESCRIBED PARA 2 AND 3, FRG HEALTH AGENCY HAS PROPOSED TENTATIVE LIMIT OF ONE PPM VC IN FOOD PENDING RESULTS OF CONTINUING RESEARCH.

5. ACCORDING TO EMB SOURCE AT MINLAB, FOLLOWING

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THREE RESEARCH PROJECTS RELATING PRIMARILY TO
OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INITIATED IN
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC:

A. CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR LABOR MEDICINE,
UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG, PROF. DR. LEHNERT (SPONSORED
BY FEDERAL LABOR MINISTRY):
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- (1) COLLECTION OF LITERATURE AND CRITICAL EVALUATION;
- (2) GAS CHROMATOGRAPHIC AND MASS SPECTROMETRIC ANALYSES OF VC CONCENTRATIONS IN AIR;
- (3) ANIMAL TESTS WITH RESIDUAL VC, INCLUDING RADIOLOGICAL AND IMMUNOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL EFFECTS.

B. CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF WUERZBURG, PROF. DR. HENSCHLER (SPONSORED BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S OCCUPATIONAL INSURANCE CARRIER):

PHARMAKINETICS OF VC AND ITS TECHNICAL IMPURITIES, AS WELL AS KIND AND EXTENT OF METABOLIZING OF THE SUBSTANCES WITHIN THE ORGANISM OF TEST ANIMALS AND HUMANS.

C. GOVERNMENTAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PHYSICIAN DR. REINL, DUESSELDORF (SPONSORED BY LAND NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA):

REGISTRATION OF CASUALTIES OF EMPLOYEES IN PVC PLANTS. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WORKERS ENGAGED IN VC PRODUCTION, PVC PRODUCTION, AND PVC PROCESSING.

THE THREE RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE BEING COORDINATED BY PROF. SZADKOWSKI, ASSISTANT TO PROF. DR. LEHNERT. COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS IS LIKELY TO REQUIRE AT LEAST TWO YEARS.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS, CHLORINE, CHEMICALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN19175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740362-0517
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabgha.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EPA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 263361, 74 STATE 263360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 SEP 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HEALTH EFFECTS OF PVC PACKAGING UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: TBIO, TGEN, SENV, GE, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005